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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

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1. The Polish merchant marine has selected between 250 and 300 men from that age-class of naval seamen which was recently discharged from the Polish Navy to help relieve the manpower shortage which now exists in the merchant service. These sailors will receive two-month courses, consisting mainly of deck subjects, before they are put on merchant vessels. Women are also being recruited, because of the manpower shortage, to serve in the mess sections of ships sailing to Europe and the Near East.
2. Merchant seamen have been rather reluctant to serve on board ships operated by the Polish-Chinese Maritime Line ever since the Polish tanker PRACA, of 8,207 gross tons, was seized by the Nationalist Chinese. The seizure of the tanker is still discussed in Poland and the families of the captured crew members are concerned over their fate because they have not received any letters from them.
3. The number of Greek and Chinese Communist seamen serving on board Polish ships is diminishing. The personal relations between the Chinese and Polish seamen have deteriorated because Polish seamen generally dislike Chinese. Furthermore, two separate messes are operated on those ships on which the crew consists of Chinese and Poles: one mess for the Poles and another for the Chinese. The number of Chinese in the Chipolbrok (China-Poland Brokerage) on ulica 10 Lutego, Gdynia, has also decreased during the last few months. Greek seamen have also been jumping ship whenever the opportunity arises.
4. Many of the ship captains who were dismissed from the Polish merchant marine service by Major Zebrowski (fnu)¹ are still employed in shore jobs. Stanislaw Kubin, former captain of the KOPERNIK; Branski (fnu), also a former captain of the KOPERNIK; Jozef Puzyna; Korsak (fnu); Jasiaki (fnu); and Szczepkowski (fnu) are the names of some of those involved. Captain Korsak is employed as a taxi driver in Sopot. According to informant, these former ship captains have not been reinstated in the merchant marine because they are either pre-war Polish naval officers who served in the navy or merchant marine in England, or were German captives during the war.

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5. In the early part of November, several seamen serving on board the S.S. KIELCE were arrested in Gdynia for smuggling dollars.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment: See [REDACTED] dated 11 September 1953 for further information on Major Zebrowski (fnu).

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